HART 450/670 - MAPPING PLACES IN TIME:
THE TEMPORAL CARTOGRAPHY OF CITIES, SITES, AND EVENTS
Spring 2022 / 10:30AM to 12:05PM
Conducted by Farès el-Dahdah

This course will, in essence, run like the humanities equivalent of an architecture design studio in which students can develop processes for producing imaginative solutions to problems that are complex in form, content, and scale. Students will explore, therefore, questions, assemble information, consult specialists, analyze precedents, test techniques, study contexts, generate insights, imagine new worlds, or consider new forms of communication. During the semester students will be able to rely on the expertise of a GIS Specialist/Developer from the Center for Research Computing's Spatial Studies Lab. and/or Fondren's GIS/Data Center who will assist with the visualization needs that course-related projects might require as well as provide tutorials in GIS applications. For graduate students taking this course, they will be able to create online tools that can aid their dissertations. While the course itself will be contained in one semester, the research projects to be examined and the online tools to be created are likely both to exceed the semester's duration.

In this course, we will investigate evolution of urban form in light of existing and emerging communication and representation tools and techniques that make it ever more possible to represent change over time and space. We will, in particular, focus on spatial analysis, broadly understood. Emerging from the earliest initiatives which extended the work of geographers and social sciences in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) on the one hand, and on scholarship of place, urbanism, landscape, and built environments, on the other, spatial questions in art history have embraced a wide variety of tools including digital mapping, 3D modeling, Augmented and Virtual Reality, and more. These same tools and techniques prompt a new range of art-historical and cultural questions that are both methodological (i.e., managing large numbers of images, developing complex digital workflows, connecting diverse kinds and qualities of historical evidence) as well as conceptual and that bring up new disciplinary questions to be covered during the semester: What does it mean to visualize a city, a site, or an event and their cultural record? Why should we look at changing spaces over time to understand art history? How does the development of larger typologies of historical and visual evidence help us think through cultural questions? Can we use an analysis of historical and contemporary viewership to understand both real and imagined spatial ideologies in art history and visual culture? Graduate students will be required to complete an additional assignment equivalent to an analytical 20-page paper.

Grading / Undergrads

- StoryMap Documenting Progress and Next Steps (50% of the grade)
- Class participation (50% of the grade)

Grading / Grads

- StoryMap Documenting Progress and Next Steps (20% of the grade)
- Research Project Report (40% of the grade)
- Class participation (40% of the grade)

Attendance

Excused absences must be arranged with the professors and normally include only the following: illness; family emergency; representation of Rice University in a scheduled athletic or academic event.

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please speak with one of us during the first two weeks of class so that we can discuss your needs. All discussions will remain confidential. You will also need to contact the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center. In case of an undocumented disability, we will encourage you, following Rice policy, to seek some form of written documentation. But please talk to us as early in the semester as possible. Disabilities that end up impacting your work but are unknown to us might result in an unfair evaluation of your class performance.